

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00771 081140Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----081140Z 084937 /12

O 081012Z MAY 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4513

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0771

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQI

REFERENCE: STATE 104489

1. VISIT OF UNDERSECRETARY HABIB MIGHT HELP BREAK THE ICE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH IRAQI, BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI IS A TIMOROUS AND GENERALLY NEGATIVE TECHNICIAN WHO PLAYS TO THE HILT THE CURRENTLY FASHIONABLE ANTI-AMERICAN GAME IN HOPES OF LIVING DOWN HIS OWN PREVIOUS ASSOCIATIONS WITH AMERICA (PHD-UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN). CHANCES OF PROGRESS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS IN A HABIB-HAMMADI MEETING THAN IN A MEETING BETWEEN A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND SADDAM HUSSEIN WHO HAS THE POWER AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TO BRING ABOUT A REAL CHANGE IN POLICY SHOULD HE DESIRE TO DO SO.

2. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF SHORT VISIT BY SECRETARY VANCE ON CONDITION HE BE RECEIVED BY SADDAM HUSSEIN. MY PAST CONTACTS WITH AMBASSADORS OF GULF STATES LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT THESE STATES WOULD BE DELIGHTED BY AN IMPROVEMENT IN US-IRAQI RELATIONS AND THAT THIS CONSIDERATION WOULD OUTWEIGH ANY TEMPORARY PIQUE THAT MIGHT RESULT IF SECRETARY VISITED BAGHDAD AND EXCLUDED THEIR CAPITALS.

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3. IF SECRETARY VISIT NOT FEASIBLE, HOWEVER, RECOMMEND WE CONSIDER ASKING IRAQIS IF SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH UNDERSECRETARY HABIB FOR PURPOSE OF RECEIVING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. WHEN WE REQUEST APPOINTMENT, WE COULD INFORM IRAQIS OF GENERAL TOPICS MESSAGE WOULD COVER SUCH AS NON-SUPPORT FOR KURDIS SEPARATISM, USG WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED TOWARDS

RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PERIOD OF
HIGHER LEVEL CONSULTATIONS. WE MIGHT ALSO OFFER TO KEEP HABIB
VISIT SECRET IF IRAQIS SO DESIRE.
WILEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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